

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1945

Editors Say Nazis Shrug Off Atrocities

Journalists Who Saw German Camps Call Reports 'Understatements'

By SHIRLEY KATZANDER

Editors and publishers who saw for themselves say that the atrocity reports of the German horrors camps at Buchenwald and Dachau are "just about understatements," because "you could smell more than you saw."

They found that the German people, confronted with the murder evidence and stark suffering endured at the camps by millions, "feel absolutely no sense of guilt."

The editors and publishers returned yesterday from a two-week tour of German murder camps and cities. They flew in from Paris on a C-54, landing at La Guardia Field at 8:38 a.m.

Nazi Pattern

Malcolm Bingay, editor of the Detroit *Free Press*, who acted as general spokesman for the group, said he believed that the camps at Dachau and Buchenwald were "not exceptions," but a part of the whole "pattern of camps all over the country."

Describing the German people who lived near the camps, E. Z. Dimitman, executive editor of the Chicago *Sun*, commented with sarcasm that "we couldn't find a single Nazi in Germany."

OldMagazineArticles.com

2 'Understatements'

"The people of Weimar near Buchenwald know nothing of the camp," Dimitman said. "They only worked side by side with the prisoners in the munitions factory in Weimar. They saw prisoners drop dead at work. Still they know nothing . . . and they are not Nazis."

Master Race

Gideon Seymour, executive editor of the Minneapolis *Star Journal*, described the phony "shower bath" at Dachau where prisoners ostensibly were taken for a shower, but were gassed to death instead. Under the impression they were about to be cleaned up for entry into the camp, they were given a bath towel and soap and locked in the "shower."

"There you also could see the Master Race theory in practice," Seymour said. "The Western Europeans were treated better than the Russians and the Poles. And the Jews were just put to death. They didn't even use them for work."

Bingay told the story of a Dutch priest, Father Peter Van Gestel, 47, but "who looked 60 years old." Van Gestel said that of the 2500 clergymen of all denominations, 78 were injected with malaria for experimentation. Fourteen died. Others were submerged in varying degrees of sea water as an experiment to help Nazi fliers lost at sea.

Joseph Pulitzer, editor and publisher of the St. Louis *Post Dispatch*, and Chandler, said they favored "a severe peace."

Commenting on voluntary censorship by Radio City Music Hall of atrocity films, Pulitzer declared that the "worse shock the American people get, the better."

William L. Chenery, publisher of *Collier's*, said: "If some can endure it, others can look at it."

PM